

A ZITICORUMBATOUS 15-SQUARE

EDWARD R. WOLPOW
Brookline, Massachusetts

Considering the enormous difficulties encountered in the construction of large word squares, it is not surprising that the first 15-square ever found should require unusual words from obscure sources. However, success was assured with the aid of the fearsome Zong computer, and the square, with all words carefully defined, is given below.

Z	I	T	I	C	O	R	U	M	B	A	T	O	U	S
I	S	O	P	E	T	O	L	U	R	N	E	T	T	E
T	O	X	O	R	H	I	T	R	A	I	S	T	E	M
I	P	O	Q	U	I	S	I	T	U	M	S	E	R	I
C	E	R	U	C	T	T	O	I	N	A	E	N	O	S
O	T	H	I	T	R	O	P	N	A	G	L	A	G	E
R	O	I	S	T	O	S	T	O	M	U	L	O	U	S
U	L	T	I	O	P	T	E	R	Y	L	I	T	I	S
M	U	R	T	I	N	O	R	H	O	N	A	S	T	I
B	R	A	U	N	A	M	Y	O	V	A	T	U	R	O
A	N	I	M	A	G	U	L	N	A	P	R	O	O	N
T	E	S	S	E	L	L	I	A	T	R	I	C	E	L
O	T	T	E	N	A	O	T	S	U	O	C	H	L	E
U	T	E	R	O	G	U	I	T	R	O	E	L	U	S
S	E	M	I	S	E	S	S	I	O	N	L	E	S	S

Ziticorumbatous: compounded in more ways than one, and for no discernible reason.

Isopetolurnette: a small device for measuring the equality of sideburn lengths in a wax factory.

Toxorhitraistem: the legal doctrine declaring that poisoning is an offense to the arch-duke.

Ipoquisitumseri: a genus of Panamanian ducks.

Ceructtoinaenos: left-leaning Indian palms near Madras; in contrast to the brethram-toinaenos that lean to the right. Most sources use the hyphen, but this is not always the case.

Othitropnaglage: the act of stretching or painting the soft underbelly of an alpaca.

Roistostomulous: speaking with feathers or rubber-bands in the mouth.

Ultiopterylitis: inflammation of the trailing edge of the wings of certain nocturnal flycatchers.

Murtinorhonasti: another genus of Panamanian ducks. Alternate spelling, Murtinorrnasti, would also fit.

Braunamyovaturo: a painful but triumphant exclamation traditionally shouted at the end of strommage festivals.

Animagulnaproon: a hybrid between a Celebes monkey and a radial tire.
 Tesselliatricel: the international unit of grolaxity, equal to one reciprocal fencepost.

Ottenaotsuochle: a term used by the natives of Pothera to describe the natives of Balokum, or, by extension, any such relationship. Occasionally hyphenated: ottena-otsu-ochle.

Uteroguitroelus: pregnancy with a banjo, or certain other stringed instruments.

Semisessionless: 1. free of half-sessions; 2. half free of sessions.

MAYBE HE'S DEAD

Mary Ann Madden's third book of New York Magazine competitions, published in 1981 by Random House (\$5.95 paperback, \$10.95 hardcover), is a worthy companion of her earlier two Sea Tortoise volumes. I enjoyed all the competitions, but will concentrate on the ones of some relevance to Word Ways:

Redistributed names (heteronyms): Le chat eau mout on Roth's child ('the cat has passed water on young Philip'); The goo dearth (the oil shortage); Cors I Can Brothers (autobiography of Sammy Davis III)

Fractured Definitions: powwow (the bark of a boxer); tallyho (a Vietnamese census taker)

One-Letter Omissions: Beer Barrel Polk (unflattering Presidential biography); The Lone Rager (the last angry man)

Fractured Names: J. Pinpoint Morgan (millionaire bombardier); Toronto (the Lone Ranger's faithful Canadian companion)

Unusual Classifieds: Solomon Grundy's Week-at-a-glance Calendar; All the King's Men jigsaw puzzles

Punned Foreign Names: Huities (breakfast des octogenarians); Armoire Sadat (member of the Egyptian cabinet)

Added Attractions: Remember (thirteenth month -- the one in which Marcel Proust and Mama were born); Jumbo the Elephant (thirteenth zodiac sign); Jalapeno (the Sixth Little Pepper); Kasha (the Fourth Sister, who dreams of opening a restaurant in Moscow)

What's the Question: A. Alexander Pope / Q. What drink contains brandy, cream and holy water? A. Beethoven's Ninth / Q. Where is Ludwig in the batting order?

Variant With One-Letter Misprints: A. Ten and Sympathy / Q. What's the most you can expect from your brother-in-law?

Whimsical Etymology: auditorium (L. audire, hear + taurus, bull): a building for public gatherings, often used by politicians or other orators for speechmaking. (P.M.C.)